SHANDA FANTASY ARTS

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Mature Readers

Carole Curtis

# Katmandu

# The INNER CIRCLE

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We've got a book coming out we want you to buy. No, really!

As you recall, Carole and I have had some adventures this past year with cancer. Well, now another in our small community is fighting the disease. But he's got a tougher row than we have.

He's Michael-Scot McMurry, well known as the creator of ZONIE THE COYOTE. Cancer, besides wreaking havoc on your body and family, can also do the same to your finances. No insurance is ever enough (believe me, we know this first hand!)

We're doing a little comic book called IN THE ZONE in August. It's 48 pages of art by the BEST in our field. A broad statement, you say? Well, Stan Sakai is doing the cover, does that make the point?

Of course, there's a reason for this. EVERY RED CENT beyond the cost of printing goes directly to Michael. If you buy it at a store, or at a convention, or though Diamond, FM, Bronzebear, Mailbox Books, etc. it's still the same. It goes to Michael to fight his cancer bills.

We want you to buy a copy. Or two, or three. Give them to friends. We guarantee it's going to be a great comic, one you will want anyway, beyond what you will be doing to fight cancer on a personal basis.

Hey, you pay taxes all the time, and never get to decide where the money goes. This time you know.

Mike and Carole

KATMANDU 20 is published by SHANDA FANTASY ARTS PO BOX 545 GREENBRIER ARK 72058 shandafa@cyberback.com All KATMANDU characters are copyrighted 2000 by CAROLE CURTIS. All art and stories are copyright their respective creators. Nothing from this book may be reproduced without the express written permission of the copyright holders except for short excerpts for advertising, review and promotion. No similarity to any person place or thing is intended and any similarity is purely coincidental. "We're up to issue 20!" Printed atMorgan Printing by that nemesis of evil Toni.

# Katmandu The Peacekeeper PART II

LEATRAH FEELS HER CHILDREN ARE OLD ENOUGH TO HEAR A STORY ABOUT RAKON, A WARRIOR WHO OPPOSED LISKA MANY TIMES. IN THIS STORY, LISKA AND RAKON ARE ALREADY ANTAGONISTS, AT A TIME WHEN A TRIBAL GATHERING IS TAKING PLACE. MARKREE AND RIAL ALSO PREPARE TO BATTLE EACH OTHER.

THANKS FOR HELPING ME WITH LUNCH, KEMAL.

STORY: CAROLE CURTIS
PENCILS: SHAWNTAE HOWARD
INKS: DEBRA COLVIN
LETTERS: CHARLES GRAY

I LIKE HELPING YOU, MOTHER.

I PLAY LISKA AND *YOU* PLAY RAKON!

NO FAIR!

OH BOY! BOILED FEATHERDUSTERS!

WHO'S THIS "RAKON" YOU TWO KEEP TALKING ABOUT?

HE'S THIS BIG GALOOT THAT LISKA FOUGHT!

YEAH, HE'S IN THE VILLAGE FOR A BIG GET-TOGETHER OF THE TRIBES;

AND HE GOT FRESH WITH SHAYGIN SO LISKA'S GONNA HANG HIM UP BY HIS TAIL!!

AND WHAT ELSE, LOANZAH?

UH-- MARKREE'S MAD 'CAUSE RIAL'S GIVEN LISKA ANOTHER BABY AN' THEY'RE GONNA FIGHT TOO.

SO CAN WE HEAR THE REST OF THE STORY, MOM?

FINISH DINNER FIRST, KITTENS.

THERE! YOUR HAIR IS NICELY TIED UP SO IT WON'T GET IN YOUR WAY.

WHAT EVENTS WILL YOU BE IN, MY BRAVE WARRIOR?

OH, ARCHERY, THE KNIFE THROW, *NOT* RACING OR WRESTLING, I CAN TELL YOU.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE WEARING YOUR BREASTPLATE TODAY. I WANT THAT KITTEN PROTECTED!

DON'T WORRY I *WON'T* BE FIGHTING.

HOW DO I LOOK, SHAYGIN?

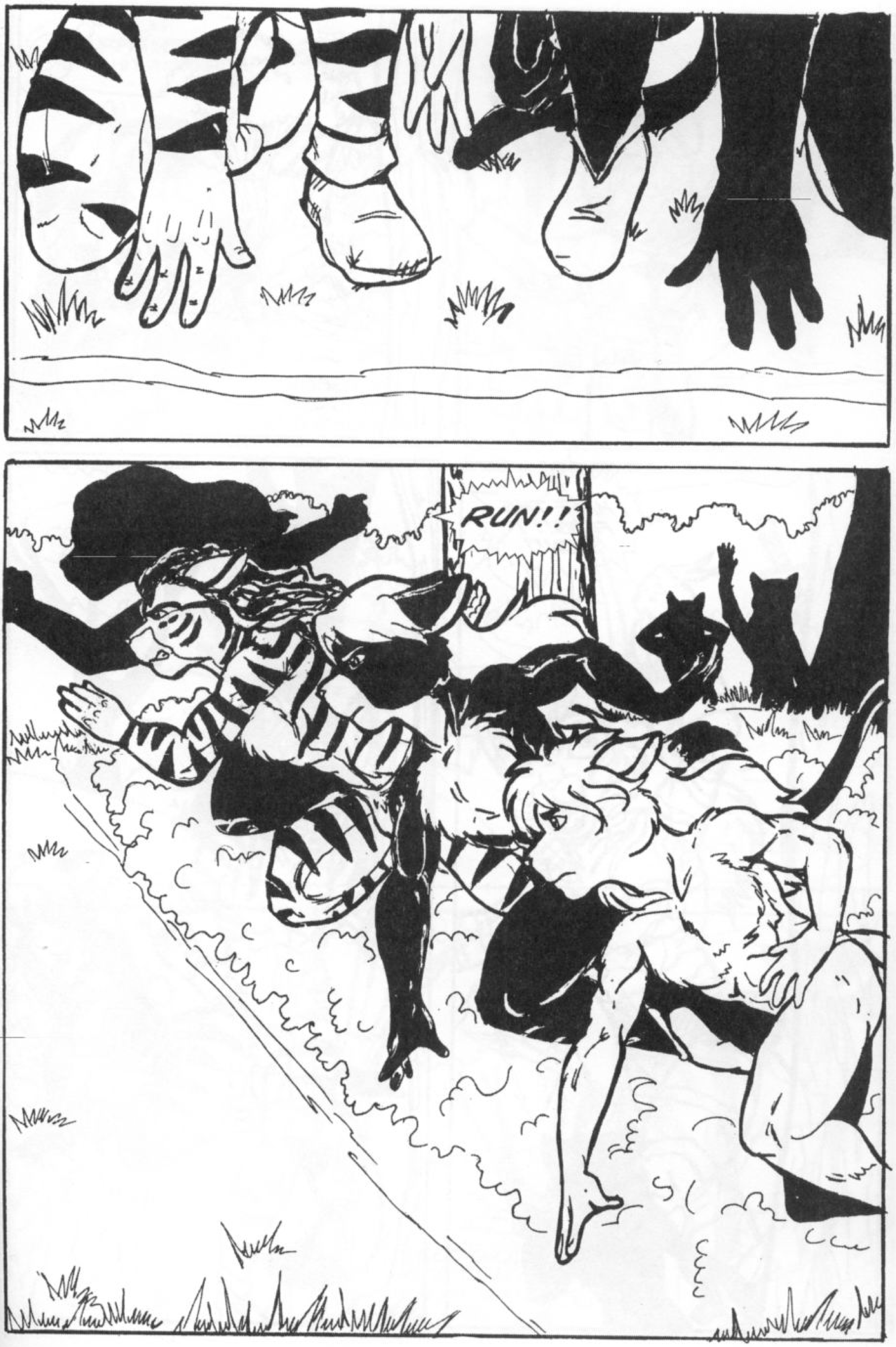
LIKE THE BRAVE WARRIOR I FIRST SAW LONG AGO.

NOW, REMEMBER MY WIFE. I WILL WIN BACK THE HAIR RAKON TOOK FROM YOU.

BE CAREFUL, MY HUSBAND. DO *NOT* TAKE RISKS.

GOOD MORNING, PYNDAN. WHAT'S THE FIRST EVENT IN THE TOURNEY?

THE LONG RUN. RIAL AND MARKREE ARE ALREADY THERE. I'VE GOT TO GET READY TOO.


RUN!!

I HAVE THE FLAG!!! I WON!!
KICK!

OOH! I'M SURPRISED RIAL DIDN'T HIT MARKREE.

HE *CAN'T.*

REMEMBER, NO PERSONAL COMBAT DURING THE TOURNEY.

I'M GLAD. MAYBE THEY CAN WORK THIS OUT, ELISHAA.

I DOUBT IT.

NEXT CONTEST IS ARCHERY.

FIRST IS RAKON FROM RED CANYON.

GOOD SHOT! LESS THAN A HAND'S SPAN AWAY.

LISKA, YOU SHOOT NEXT.

BETWEEN THE SPARS! THAT BEATS RAKON!

YOU STILL HAVEN'T WON THIS, PITIFUL SHE-MALE.

SEEMS LIKE A TOUGH WARRIOR.

I DON'T CARE. THE TALLER TREE MAKES THE LARGER TARGET.

SHAYGIN MAKES A FINE LUNCH. WOULD YOU JOIN US?

I'D BEST NOT. THERE'S ANOTHER RACE SOON-

-AND I THINK I SHOULD BE BETWEEN RIAL AND MARKREE.

HAH!

IT'S A GOOD THING HE'S LISKA'S LITTLE BROTHER.

I WAS VERY PROUD OF HOW YOU BEAT RAKON IN ARCHERY.

IF HE HAD MADE MOVES ON *YOU*, ELISHAA, I WOULD HAVE MADE A RUG OF HIM.

HM. I'VE STILL GOT TWO MORE CONTESTS AGAINST HIM.

I BELIEVE YOU, YOUNGSTER.

RIAL, YOUR DAUGHTER IS AS SPIRITED AS YOU WERE AT HER AGE.

THIS RAKON SEEMS VERY TOUGH.

I ASKED SOME OF HIS PEOPLE ABOUT HIM.

THEY SAID HE'S THE BEST HUNTER AMONG THEM, AND HE *KNOWS* IT TOO.

HAS HE GOT A WOMAN BACK HOME?

*SEVERAL*, ONE WARRIOR TOLD ME.

YOU LOOKED GOOD IN THE RACE, MARKREE.

HE DIDN'T ACT GOOD. I HOPE YOU AND RIAL SETTLE THIS SOON.

*I'LL* SETTLE IT.

THERE GOES A WARRIOR WITH RAKON'S MEAL.

BETTER HIM THEN OUR WOMEN.

HM. NOBODY'S COME CLOSE TO ME OR THAT SHE-MALE.

HERE'S YOUR MEAL, WARRIOR.

HM, TOO BAD THE CHIEF ISN'T HAVING WOMEN DELIVER IT.

I THINK I'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT SHE-MALES HAIR WHEN I BEAT HER.

WELL, I BETTER GET DOWN TO THE CREEK.

YOU BETTER TOO LISKA.

WHAT CONTEST IS THIS, HUSBAND?

THE CONTEST OF BALANCE.

IF I CAN BEAT RAKON HERE, I WIN YOUR HAIR BACK, MY WIFE.

THIS CONTEST IS SIMPLE. TWO WARRIORS ON A LOG OVER WATER, THEIR WRISTS TIED TOGETHER. WHOEVER KEEPS THEIR FOOTING WINS.

COMPETING FIRST!

PYNDAN OF THE HIGHLAND PEOPLE AGAINST RAKON OF RED CANYON.

A GOOD BOUT, SUN-CAT. BUT IN OUR CANYON HOME, WE DO THIS TO STAY ALIVE, NOT FOR SPORT.

HE'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY, LISKA.

I'VE GOT TO BEAT BIKEL FIRST TO GET TO HIM.

GOOD MATCH! YOU ALMOST HAD ME.

NOW, SISTER, I'M GOING TO DUNK THAT NIGHTCAT.

MARKREE, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS. COMPETE WITH RIAL AND BE *DONE* WITH THIS FEUD!

MAYBE HE'S PULLED THE FUR OVER *YOUR* EYES, BUT NOT MINE!

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN HOW HE KIDNAPPED YOU AND TOOK YOU AWAY FROM ME!

RIAL IS THE FATHER OF MY THEA AND THE FATHER OF THE KITTEN I CARRY NOW!

WOULD YOU LEAVE THEM WITHOUT A FATHER?

NO-

BUT I HAVE TO MAKE HIM KNOW HOW I FELT!

MARKREE, FOR ALL OUR SAKES, I HOPE THAT'S *ALL* YOU DO.

SLASH!

I DON'T DROWN KITTENS--
NOT EVEN THE USELESS
ONES!

CONTINUED.